

REMARKS

Claims 10-13 and 15-18 remain pending in the above-referenced application.

As for the prior art rejection, the Ardon et al. document shows a switching method and apparatus for interconnections between a switching system and functional units. This is shown especially in the passages in column 9 and 11 given by the examiner, where a line switching made by a central switching unit and distributed switching units is de-scribed. In the whole document there is not shown that a predefinable code is given and that this predefinable code includes information which expresses a period of time, which is a waiting time after which a suppressed function is free on that line and the other function which was established in the period of time is now suppressed. The only hint in the Ardon et al. document is in column 11 line 44 where time slots are mentioned with regard to switching element resources because of the effect of load balancing to distribute load between distributed control units. But there is no predefinable code given and it is not mentioned that in this code a waiting time information is enclosed. On the other hand in the Ardon et al document a switching between different distributed elements is shown. On the contrary to that in the claimed invention there is a switching between functions with regard to the same pin or same line, which also shows the difference that in the claimed invention the other function has to be suppressed and not only switched because this function is normally available on the same line and if there is more than one function only one function is made available and the others are suppressed and not simply switched.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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